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CONTROLLED POROSITY EXPANDED POLYTETRAFLUOROETHYLENE PRODUCTS AND FABRICATION

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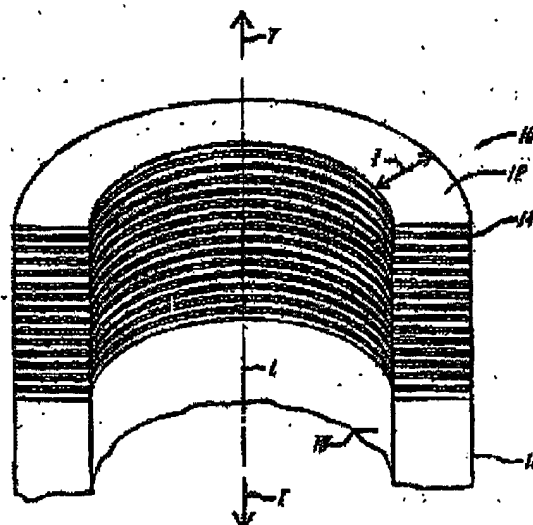
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Abstract not available for JP7507014T

Abstract of corresponding document: WO9318214

A method of forming porous articles with a varying pore distribution by extrusion from a billet with varying lubricant distribution. A single-polymer polytetrafluoroethylene is extruded and then stretched and sintered to provide a differential porous PTFE structure composed of fibers and nodes connected to one another by these fibers. The microfibrinous structure has a portion within the cross section that possesses a different pore size, accompanied by a different node and fiber geometry, than adjacent areas within the cross section. A tube (10), having elongate nodes (12), fibrils (14), an inner surface (16) and an outer surface (18), of an expanded, porous fluoropolymer material, which is useful as a vascular graft, is formed. In a vascular graft, the pores taper inwardly, providing a fluid-tight lumen wall structure that prevents leakage, yet promotes cellular growth and natural tissue generation. A node structure of radially-oriented plates provides flexibility, suture strength, and enhanced protection against collapse.



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